

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8422

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MARR, CA

SUBJ: GOOSE BAY PRESS RELEASE

1. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAS FORWARDED DRAFT PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING U.S. DESIRE TO MAINTAIN A REDUCED MILITARY PRESENCE AT GOOSE BAY WHEN SAC TANKER WING WITHDRAWS ON JULY 1, 1976. EXTAFF HAS REQUESTED US CONCURRENCE TO PRESS RELEASE AND FURTHER ADVISES THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN SEEN BY EXTAFF MINISTER MACEACHEN. IT WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE SEEN BY MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND TRANSPORT. THUS, EXTAFF HAS INDICATED THAT "IT WOULD NOT APPEAR AT THIS STAGE THAT A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE BEFORE APPROXIMATELY JAN 15, 1976." TEXT OF DRAFT PRESS RELEASE AS FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE HONOURABLE ALLAN J. MACEACHEN TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO A REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO RETAIN A SMALL MILITARY UNIT AT GOOSE BAY WHEN THE USAF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND TANKER WING THERE IS WITHDRAWN ON JUNE 30, 1976. THE ROLE OF THIS NEW USAF UNIT WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT SERVICING AND FUELLING FACILITIES FOR

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PEACETIME ROTATION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO EUROPE AND TO

SUPPORT NATO/NORAD ACTIVITIES IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY.
THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS TO GOVERN THE PRESENCE OF THIS
UNIT WILL BE SET OUT IN AN AGREEMENT TO BE WORKED OUT BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED AGENCIES OF THE TWO GOVERN-
MENTS.

3. "IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE NEW UNIT AT GOOSE BAY
WILL CONSIST OF ONLY TEN USAF PERSONNEL WITH THE MAJOR
SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS BEING MET BY A CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR.
THE CONTRACTOR IS EXPECTED TO EMPLOY APPROXIMATELY 100
CANADIAN CIVILIANS TO PERFORM SUCH TASKS AS AIRCRAFT
SERVICING, ENROUTE MAINTENANCE, TANK FARM AND REFUELLING
SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY SUPPORT. DETAILS OF THE
CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE DETERMINED OVER THE
COMING MONTHS. OTHER SERVICES REQUIRED WILL BE PROVIDED
ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DEPART-
MENTS AT GOOSE BAY, I.E. THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
DEFENCE. END QUOTE.
JOHNSON

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